

4.9 STUDY SCHEDULES

4.9.1 Wildlife and Habitat Monitoring Schedules

The Applicant plans to convene a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to evaluate the mitigation and monitoring program and determine the need for further studies or mitigation measures. The proposed compositions of the TAC would be representatives from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, EFSEC, Kittitas County, local interest groups (e.g., Kittitas Audubon Society), Project landowners, and the Applicant. The role of the TAC will be to review results of monitoring studies to evaluate impacts to wildlife and habitat, and address issues that arise regarding wildlife impacts during operation of the Project. The post-construction monitoring plan will be developed in coordination with the TAC.

The Applicant proposes to develop a post construction monitoring plan for the Project to quantify impacts to avian species and to assess the adequacy of mitigation measures implemented. The monitoring plan will include the following components: 1) one year of fatality monitoring involving standardized carcass searches, scavenger removal trials, searcher efficiency trials, and reporting of incidental fatalities by maintenance personnel and others; and 2) a minimum of one breeding season raptor nest survey of the study area and a 1 mile buffer to locate and monitoring active raptor nests potentially affected by the construction and operation of the Project.

The protocol for the fatality monitoring study will be similar to protocols used at the Vansycle Wind Plant in northeastern Oregon (Erickson *et al.*, 2000) and the Stateline Wind Plant in Washington and Oregon (FPL *et al.*, 2001).